

REMARKS

By this Amendment claims 1 and 15 have been amended to define a coupling bar having couplings for instrument hoses changeably mounted to an underside of the base module so that the couplings will face either downwardly (so that the instrument hose will hang downwardly) or forwardly so that hoses connected thereto will extend forwardly, and claims 5, 14, 16-19, 22 and 26 have been amended to better define the intended subject matter. Entry and allowance of this application is requested.

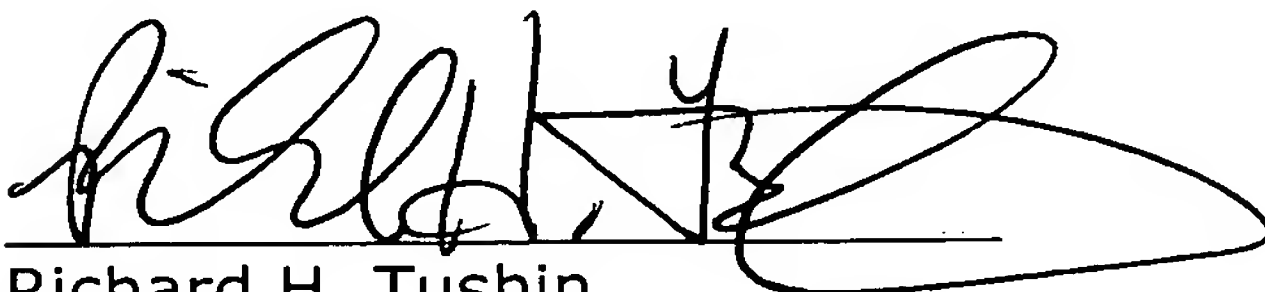
In the outstanding final Office Action the examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 14-16, 18-22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bierbaum et al. in view of Hanson, he rejected claims 4 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bierbaum et al. in view of Hanson and Doty, and he rejected claims 11-13 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bierbaum et al. in view of Hanson and Childress.

However, Bierbaum et al. (summarized previously) does not teach or suggest use of a coupling bar having couplings for the ends of instrument hoses and which is changeably connected to an underside of the base member 6 to change how the hoses extend, whether downwardly or forwardly. And nothing in Hanson, Doty or Childress would suggest otherwise.

The amended claims should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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